

An Essay
on

Bilious remittent Fever,

respectfully submitted
to the

Homoeopathic medical College
of Pennsylvania,

on the fifteenth day of January
one thousand eight hundred and fifty
for the

Doctorate in medicine

by
Jonas Schantz
of

Montgomery county

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Febris biliosa remittens. Bilious remittent fever, Gallenfieber.

During the course of almost any of the manifold forms of fevers, prevailing over the wide ⁿUniverse, to which the human being is subject, are peculiarities presenting themselves, to be observed with equal care, if not more so, than any such, in any other class or form of malady. I am alluding to the various remarkable types, as they occur, as well as to the peculiar choice which different agencies, in effecting febrile affections, seem to be possessed of, attacking now these, then some other parts of the organism more severely. Such will be found in the first place by inquiring into different

authorities, that they speak of continuing, intermitting and remitting types, or the order in which the symptoms of a disease exhibit themselves, and succeed each other.

In the morbid affection which I have chosen for consideration, it will be observed, is denoted the type remittent, signifying that during its course, paroxysms or periods appear, where the symptoms become severer, alternating with corresponding remissions, or abatements of the symptoms, which sometimes approach almost to complete intermissions; or the remissions may be so slight as to resemble the continued type: one of these paroxysms usually occurring once in every twenty four hours. It does however show

considerable diversities in its phenomena, as it is depending greatly on the seasons of the year, localities of the patients and other individual circumstances.

I have before alluded to, that in an attack of fever, some organs are more severely involved than others, giving rise to the different appellations, such as; catarrhal, rheumatic, intermittent, eruptive, Typhoid, gastric and bilious fevers. This latter being characterized by more or less irritation of the liver & stomach, as will be obvious by the symptoms which I shall now attempt to lay down. In the milder and more simple forms of this fever, there is a sensation of general illness & weakness, violent heat alternating with chills,

restlessness & anxiety; there is head-ache, characterized by a sensation of heaviness over the eyes; a dislike to both mental & corporeal exercise; coated tongue with a bitter taste in the mouth; aversion to food, nausea and vomiting; often instant rejection of every thing eaten; frequently sensitiveness of the epigastric region; the alvine evacuations are either increased, or there is constipation; urine highly colored, and after a few days continuance slight yellow tinge of the adnata of the eyes, and skin. These symptoms show plainly the derangement of the digestive apparatus, and when not treated properly in the first two or three days, or by gross errors on the side of the patient

it runs on, until a true and more severe form of bilious fever is developed. In this severer form, or stage, the symptoms show themselves in an aggravated degree; the bilious symptoms being especially prominent (in which case the older physicians have called it *causus*), the exacerbations continue longer and so shorten the remissions, in which the patient may have had some comfort and frequent refreshing slumbers; violent chills succeeded by intense burning heat of the skin; pulse quick, soft, often unequal; intense cephal~~ae~~^{alg} gastrica, a sensation of drawing and heaviness in the forehead near the frontal sinus, and spreading from thence over the orbital regions; thick whitish, yellow, slimy coating of the

tongue; excessive thirst, with oppression of the chest; distressing nausea with frequent vomiting of tough,ropy, greenish, and intensely bitter, bilious matters; rising of foetid air, distension and swelling of the epigastric region, but soft and not very sensitive to touch; the stools are either hard, or if the bowels are open the discharges are of a greenish, watery, extremely foetid matter, which is often accompanied with tenesmus; urine is colored or cloudy; yellow tinge of the skin and adnata of the eyes.

Aetiology.

This disease may attack persons of any age and under any circumstances, but it is especially liable to attack individuals of a choleric

temperament, and such as have a deranged state of the digestive apparatus, dyspeptic persons, and those of great sensitiveness of the mucous membrane of the stomach; also persons advanced in years. It may be ushered in by the use of hard digestible or heavy aliments; overloading the stomach, excesses in spirituous drinks; certain medicines of a stimulating character such as; bitters, china, iron preparations, nitrum &c., or also by a catarrh on the stomach; violent mental excitements, chagrin, anger, fear &c. or by exposure to cool night air, or laying on the ground after perspiring.

The prevalency of the disease depends likewise much upon the seasons of the year;

more prevalent if the heat is excessive, or if there is much cool, wet weather, or also frequent and sudden changes of temperatures. It is confined more to the middle & southern sections of the United States, to the southern parts of Europe, to Africa & West Indies. It sometimes however prevails as an epidemic in the northern, as well as in the southern sections, or it may assume an endemic or sporadic character. Persons of other countries visiting such districts during the prevalence of the disease, are liable to an attack.

An epidemic bilious fever may also arise out of an intermitting fever.

Diagnosis.

Bilious fever may be confounded with gastritis, ganglionic typhus, or with other gastric fevers. It is distinguished from

gastritis, by the absence of the characteristic burning pain in the epigastric region; here only a sense of fullness. In gastritis, the epigastric region is hard and distended; here soft; there is not much coating of the tongue in gastritis; here the characteristic thick, yellow slimy, and lastly brown sordes like covering. (if typhoid symptoms are present.)

In gastritis, there is violent vomiting, often of a substance in which streaks of blood are observed; here more nausea, and if vomiting, it generally consists of greenish, tough bilious substances.

In gastritis, there is wanting the cephalaea gastrica, the urina fumentosa, the soft, quick pulse, which latter is by some physicians considered characteristic of bilious fever.

From ganglionic or abdominal typhus, it is distinguished by the absence of all nervous symptoms. These however may occur in case it should be of a typhoid character. In typhus the headache is situated in the occiput; here in the forehead. The senses, as: sight, hearing &c. which are especially affected in typhus, are here free. In typhus the constant characteristic pain in the region of the coccyx which is here wanting.

Finally, from other gastric fevers, by the burning heat, coating of the tongue, yellow pigment under the skin &c.

Duration.

Bilious remittent fever may terminate in twenty four hours, or in two or three days if it be of the milder form. After running into the severer form it

generally continues from seven to fourteen days, and by complication with typhoid symptoms, may run to the twentieth or even twenty eighth day.

Termination.

Favorable terminations take place if the exacerbations retard day by day, and the remissions are of a longer, and to the patient more refreshing continuance; by setting in of crises, either topical, such as vomiting of badly tasting, greenish bilious matters and also foetid stools, or general, as sweats of a peculiar smell, and frequently staining the ~~skin~~ yellowish; the urine with an earthy, flocculent sediment, an eruption on the abdomen if the disease has been of a typhoid character.

It may terminate in partial health,

the whole digestive apparatus remaining in a weakened state, so as not to perform the regular duties; the patients have a want of appetite, and after the least meal distension and fullness of the stomach, or ejections follow; there is either constipation, or the evacuations are too copious and of a thin consistency. Relapses, or long protraction may occur by the least error in diet.

It may pass into another disease, and perhaps more frequently into intermittent fever, than any other, leaving a gastric trace in its duration; into chronic hepatitis; gastro-alaxia, or else into abdominal typhus, especially if the fever have been complicated with typhoid symptoms; if a pain appear in the cecum,

the pulse almost imperceptible; head-ache more in the occiput; tongue dry and brown; meteorism; constant pressure at the epigastric region; Cold Extremities; Sopor &c. Or finally, the termination may be in death, especially if the above symptoms supervene; by paralysis of the splanchnic nerves; or by mechanical injury, done to the stomach by too severe efforts to vomit.

Prognosis.

The character of the disease, locality of the patient, prevailing diseases, and individual circumstances; are the chief subjects on which the prognosis of this disease depends. The prognosis is favorable if the fever is of an erythric or synochal character; if the exacerbations shorten and the remissions are of long and cheerful continuance; if the patient has had been of a tem-

perate habit and sound constitution; if the tongue is soft, spongy coated; soft, painless abdomen; more costive than diarrhoeic stools. It is unfavorable by complications with typhoid symptoms; if the coating of the tongue becomes brown, with fordes on the teeth; if the abdomen be much distended and painful, too constant or involuntary evacuations.

Therapeia.

The homöopathic treatment of this disease is generally easy and equally successful.

The more general indicated remedies, besides a well appropriated diet, are; Ant. c., Ars., Bry., Cham., Cocc., Ipec., Nux. v., Puls., Tart. c., Veratrum.

In the outset of the fever, Aconite may precede other remedies, if it is of a synochal character; coated tongue, bitter taste, dry hot

Skin, great thirst.

Ant. c., is indicated by distressing nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea; pressure at the stomach as from excessive eating; cutting pains in the abdomen, evacuations of undigested watery stools.

Ars., may be used successfully if there is excessive prostration of strength, anxiety, burning heat, dry skin, excessive thirst with drinking but a little at a time, bitter taste, vomiting of yellow, greenish slime, pressure and burning in the stomach, alvine evacuations are foetid and of a dark, green, or even black color; pain & swelling at the liver and spleen, and other symptoms, such as: pains, spasms in the extremities &c. which do not properly belong to bilious fever, may also be present.

Bry., a chief remedy, especially indicated

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for persons of a dry, bilious constitution and choleric temperament; If it has been caused by a cold, or chagrin.

The patient complains of internal burning heat, frequent alternations of chills and heat; outward pressing headache in the forehead with fullness and giddiness; want of appetite, bitter taste preasure at the stomach, colicky pains in the bowels with cutting and stinging, the stools mostly consistent.

This remedy deserves also consideration when the fever is complicated with rheumatic symptoms, and threatens to become Typhoid.

Cham. deserves consideration if the fever has been caused by a fit of anger, chagrin, or from a cold.

The fever is characterized by great

sensitiveness to all pains, heat over the face, red burning cheeks, and hot sweat; bitter or foul taste in the mouth, yellow bilious vomiting, painful pressure at the pit of the stomach; burning, cutting & tearing in the abdomen with frequent green, watery stools; urine yellowish with a flocculent sediment; skin and adnata oculorum tinged yellow.

Coccc., if there be chills, or chills alternating with heat; headache; sour or bitter taste in the mouth, great aversion to food, fullness of the stomach; violent crampy, squeezing pains in the stomach &c.

Speccac., in case it had been caused by overloading the stomach, especially with pork or other fat articles of aliment, fever more towards evening with a sour smelling sweat, tongue yellow or whit-

ish covered; much gathering of saliva, nausea and violent vomiting of bilious substances; great flabbiness with pinching or cutting pains in the abdomens with grassgreen or slimy, foetid stools. Nux. v., is the principle remedy for lively, plethoric individuals, used to a sedentary mode of life, or who had been in habit of excesses in the use of Coffee and spirituous drinks; or if the fever has been caused by mental exertions; from chagrin, or from a cold.

The following symptoms call for Nux. v., heat, spreading chiefly over the head; restlessness, a dull sensation in the head with giddiness, intense pressing headache, tension over the eyes; parched lips without much thirst. brown yellow coating on the tongue, sour or bitter taste; nausea and vomiting of sour

mucous or of bile; oppression at the stomach; distressing fullness & distension in the hypochondriac region; pains in the liver; gripings and much rumbling in the bowels, which are constipated; slight yellow tinge of the whites of the eyes and skin.

Puls., if ushered in by a cold, or overloading the stomach with fat pastries; and if there is aversion to fat foods; thirst for acid drinks, insipid, bitter taste; regurgitation of food, or slimy, greenish vomiting; nightly bilious diarrhoeas. If there is discharge of undigested food ^{diarrhoea} Antic. would be in.

Part. e., great drowsiness with fever, constant vomiting; cutting in the bowels; slimy stools; A rash may be present,

Veratrum, the patient is desponding,

or irritable; pressure at the stomach, also complaining of violent-cutting pains in the bowels; flatulency, constipation, or greenish. yellow diarrhoeic discharges.

There are however a variety of other medicines, that may come into use as the symptoms may call for, to give a detail of each of which, would be quite a laborious attempt. I may however mention amongst others, that China, would be indicated, if the patient had been debilitated by drastic medicines, or by loss of blood; if there is want of Appetite, yellow coated tongue, dull headache, white grayish stools &c.

Coloc., by colicky pains, greenish diarrhoeas pressure in the forehead, chills &c.

Bell., severe headache, dry heat, thickly coated tongue, sleeplessness, difficult swallow

lowing, vomiting of sour, bitter matters, &c.
In other cases may be indicated, Arn., Gelat.,
Merc. v., Mag. m., Nuxph., Staph., Wat. m.,
Sig. p., Colch., Ign., Rhs. t., &c., &c.

The image of the disease (or Krankheits-
bild of Hahnemann) being formed, and
each symptom carefully compared with
those of each separate remedy; will lead
to the true & successful administration
of homöopathic agencies.

I finally come to a conclusion with my "Essay," - in which I am aware are many things lacking, and not of a quality as they might be; but it is my hope & courage, that you will not startle by perceiving the glitter and dust, but sentence according to the few - (if any,) grains of gold that may come into notice. It has been my lot, besides several

others, to tend both the first and second
courses in the homöopathic College of Penn-
sylvania; established & chartered but about
two years ago, and I can openly say, that
I have not only attained full satisfaction,
but even experienced reward promising
Issues, from the fountain of truth in medi-
cine, based upon the law Similia similia-
bus curantur; as well as philanthropi-
cal treatment from the deliverers thereof;
I mean the honorable Professors, which
have gone beyond all expectations; and for
the kindness of which I can do no more
but promise you my best efforts to
act accordingly at the same time
remaining; -

your most obedient servant.
Jonas S. Schultz.

An Essay

on
Yellow Fever

Respectfully submitted

to the

Hon. Medical College

On the 1st of January

One thousand eight hundred & fifty

for the Doctorate in Medicine

By

David A. Smith of Philadelphia Pa.